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with the exception of a few Jingoese, they continue to believe in us, in our national loyalty to justice and right. They have discriminated finely between the acts of a small section of the country and the general attitude of our people and government towards the Japanese. In this respect they have set a shining example of patience and self-restraint which the so-called Christian nations might profitably follow in their dealings with one another. Rarely has anything nobler been seen in international conduct than the speech and behavior of the Japanese government at home and their officials and visitors in this country during the recent war talk. "There is no Japanese-American situation;" "There are no strained relations;" "It is ridiculous;" "The Japanese are not thinking as you are writing;" "Friction is impossible;" "We want peace," — so have they all said, Ambassador Aoki, General Kuroki, Admiral Yamamoto, Prime Minister Komura, Foreign Minister Hayashi, and the rest. And the course which they have taken is all the more praiseworthy because, as everybody knows, it has not been dictated in the least by fear, but altogether by reason, good sense, and enlightened self-interest.

The course which our government has taken, in promptly denying the false rumors about strained relations and about the purpose of the proposed transfer of the battleships to the Pacific, in reasserting our national friendship for Japan, and in the cordiality of the reception given to the visiting Japanese, has been in every way admirable. We are sure that it has all been done with the sincerest motives, in the interest of right and good understanding. It has so been construed by the Japanese, and thus the unfortunate flurry has been ended. But the government ought, in consistency, as a logical sequence of its course, promptly to assure the Japanese government that under the circumstances the big fleet of battleships will not be sent around to the Pacific at the present time. If Secretary Metcalf and the Naval Board think any long cruise is needed for the purpose of training or to show anybody what a mighty and swift-fighting machine we have, the great vessels might be divided into two squadrons and set to chasing each other up and down the Atlantic coast between Greenland and Patagonia. It would add to the effectiveness of the scene and completely quiet the Japanese mind if the ships now on the Pacific coast were sent round the cape to join the Atlantic squadrons in their manœuvres.

In addition to all this we have, government and people alike, an imperative duty to perform in seeing that there is no repetition of the humiliating injustices which have been done the Japanese in California. If these continue to occur, we cannot expect to retain unimpaired the friendship and respect of the powerful new nation which has just come to a consciousness of itself and is hereafter to play a

great rôle in the life of the Pacific. Whatever difficulties may attend the peculiar situation created by the overlapping of State and national jurisdiction on the Pacific coast may easily be solved if the people as a whole determine that they shall be solved in harmony with justice and American principles. No State or city in the nation can long maintain itself in a course of essential injustice toward foreign residents in the face of the condemnation of the united and well-directed public sentiment of the nation.

Japan and the United States, because of their peculiar situation on opposite shores of the great Pacific, have an opportunity such as has perhaps never before come to any two powers to promote the welfare and peace of the world, if they only live on in relations of intimate friendship and harmony. This they will do. They must do it. It is hardly possible to conceive of their doing otherwise. War between them at this late day would be the very height of absurdity and criminality. Peace has conquered in this instance, through the wisdom and foresight of the responsible statesmen on both sides of the water, in spite of jingoism, in spite of the "yellow" press here and the "red" press there, and the other forces of discord and violence which have gotten in their baneful work. Peace will continue to reign between them, all the more triumphantly because of the signal victory which she has just won.

### Progress of the Hague Conference.

It is not possible as we go to press to give any definite idea of what the practical results of the work of the Hague Conference will be. So far none of the committees have made report to a plenary session on any of the subjects which they have been discussing. An immense amount of hard, conscientious work has evidently been done in the committee rooms, behind closed doors, the results of which we shall soon begin to see. Indeed, the official reports made public at the close of each committee meeting have given a fair idea of how the sentiment of the delegations runs. But as the Conference as a whole must pass on all the reports, it is not safe to assume yet that we know how any measure will finally be disposed of.

There has been a good deal of criticism — much of it just, but some of it mere impatient fault-finding — of the slowness with which the important subjects urged upon the Conference have been taken up. It has certainly been depressing to see the distinguished men gathered there compelled to give their main thought for nearly six weeks to questions of the details of war and fighting. But this has been not so much their fault as the fault of the governments which sent them to The Hague with instructions. War is still, however regretfully one may have to say it, a recognized method of dealing with international controversies. So long as this continues to be

the case, time will be consumed and miserably wasted in international conferences in dealing with the rules and methods of its barbarism and ferocity. The program which all the governments accepted when they consented to go to the second Hague Conference gave prominence to military and naval subjects, and the committees, against the will of many members, we are sure, have simply been following out this program. It was to have been expected. It is a disgrace to our civilization that it is so, but so it is. A good deal of faithful and direct work will yet have to be done before this "plague to mankind," this "curse of the human race," this "greatest of all human evils," will be outlawed forever from the respect of civilized men and governments.

But the important things have not by any means been neglected. They have been urged upon the Conference day after day by deputations, by memorials, by innumerable letters and telegrams. There is no doubt that, while less has been said about them in the meetings, they have been the subjects of the deepest and most anxious concern of many of the leading members. There is evidently in the Conference as a whole a strong disposition to make it a real peace conference, to advance as far as possible the institutions which will conserve the harmony of the world, reduce war to the lowest possible limit, and ultimately eliminate it entirely. This disposition has manifested itself in a number of ways, and will doubtless become stronger and stronger from now to the end of the Conference.

Of particular measures of this kind, two have already been voted on by the committees. The proposition for the exemption of private property at sea from capture in time of war, so powerfully advocated by Mr. Choate, was adopted by the committee by a vote of 21 to 11. It may nevertheless be defeated at the Conference, as three or four of the great powers voted against it. But the vote itself is most significant, and it will not be surprising if the opposition dwindles away. The American proposition on the subject of the collection of contractual debts by force has been adopted in committee without a dissenting vote. This proposition is that no force shall be used in the collection of debts from a debtor power if that power is willing to have the claim submitted to arbitration. This principle does not go as far as the Drago doctrine, which is opposed to the collection of such debts by force, at any time or under any conditions, but if it is adopted it will without doubt settle the matter for all time.

The subject of an obligatory arbitration treaty has been introduced, but the consideration of it has not progressed much. There seems to be little objection to the American proposal on the subject, which specifies certain classes of cases for arbitration and provides that the carrying out of the treaty shall be subject to the constitu-

tional provisions of the different countries. We print on another page the American proposition for the transformation of the present Hague Court into a genuine judicial tribunal with permanent judges, fifteen in number. The Russian delegation has presented another method for making the Hague Court more efficient. But the discussion of the subject has not yet advanced very far.

The subject of periodic meetings of the Hague Conference has not yet been taken up, though Mr. Nelidoff has announced that the subject will at least be considered, though he doubts if any definite action will be taken. The British delegation, through its chairman, Sir Edward Fry, has presented the subject of limitation of armaments, as was expected. But consideration of the subject has been put off more than once, two or three of the powers seeming determined that it shall not even be discussed. But we shall almost certainly hear more of it within the next two weeks.

The month of August is sure, we think, to see a rapid maturing of the deliberations of the Conference, and we think there is good reason to believe that the final results will be large and beneficent, if not all is gained that we might wish.

The American delegation, headed by Mr. Choate, all reports agree, is taking a strong lead in the direction of constructive measures and doing service of a very high order. They cannot take too advanced ground for the people of the nation.

### Education for Peace.

The National Educational Association, which has just held its forty-fifth annual convention at Los Angeles, has put itself squarely on record as opposed to the current militarism and in favor of the closest friendship and permanent pacific relations among the nations. In the report of the Committee on Resolutions, of which Charles C. Van Liew of Chico, Cal., was chairman, we find the following admirable section:

"The teachers of the United States of America, assembled in the National Educational Association at Los Angeles, Cal., view with pleasure and satisfaction the conditions which have brought about the second Hague Conference. We believe that the forces of the world should be organized and operated in the interests of peace and not of war; we believe that the material, commercial and social interests of the people of the United States and of the whole world demand that the energies of the governments and of the people be devoted to the constructive and helpful pursuits of peace, and that the people be relieved of the burdens of providing at enormous expense the armaments suggested by the competitive desire for supremacy in war; we further believe that the fear of war and the possibility of war would alike decline if the governments were to rely more upon the sentiment of the people and less upon the strength of their armies and navies.